

Abstract**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SCANNING OVERSIZED DOCUMENTS**

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An image capture apparatus comprises a computer device, for example a personal computer, and a scanning device, for example a flat bed scanning device, configured to operate a two-scan image capture process followed by data processing for combining first and second images obtained in said two-step image capture process, and a three-step image capture process followed by data processing for combining first, second and third images obtained in said three-step image capture process for obtaining a combined full image of a document. Algorithms are disclosed for stitching first and second images together to obtain a combined image data. In both the two-step and three-step image capture operation and subsequent data processing, a document having a size larger than an image capture area of said image capture device can be combined to produce a combined image data representing the whole of the document in a fully automated manner without the need for user intervention in matching images.

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Fig. 5